

From: [Mason, Steve](#)
To: [Delgado, Paige](#); [Adams, Adam](#)
Cc: [Smith, Monica](#)
Subject: RE: For Daily OPS Report -- 03/20/2019
Date: Thursday, March 21, 2019 6:22:53 AM

With Regards, Steve



Stephen Mason
EPA Region 6 (6SP-PE)
1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, TX 75202
214-885-2276
mason.steve@epa.gov

"Frequently, my thoughts get bored and walk down to my mouth. Often, this is a bad thing."

EPA continues to participate in Unified Command with TCEQ, Harris County Pollution Control Services, and ITC.

Fire operations are still ongoing, with maintaining of the foam blanket in the secondary containment to prevent reignition of hot spots. Foam is being added approximately 3 times every 4 hours at a rate of 180,000 gallons of foam per foaming operation. The facility stated that there is approximately 2 feet of free board within the secondary containment. The secondary containment has a capacity of 175,000 barrels (7.38 million gallons). The facility will open outfall 003 per foaming operation to manage water in the secondary containment to maintain current levels. TCEQ and EPA requested water sampling be done each time outfall is opened. This will be added to the Water Sampling plan.

ITC will initiate sampling of all brands of foam used during the response to determine if any contained PFOS and PFOA. This operation should begin March 21, 2019, and will have a turn-around time of five days.

ITC stated a surface drain is releasing water that flooded around the tank farm, but should not contain any product.

ITC's contractor (Oil-Mop) will mobilize additional resources (skimmers, vac trucks, and frac tanks) to conduct cleanup operations at the Tucker and Buffalo Bayou.

OSC Adams and PIO Assunto participated in a public meeting with Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee in Galena Park regarding EPA's role on the response.

EPA will conduct water sampling on 03/21 for PFOS / PFOA analysis.

ITC continues to take water samples every two hours at the ditch feeding into Tucker Bayou and sending the samples to an outside laboratory for analysis.

The TAGA mobile laboratory has arrived on-site and will initiate air monitoring in communities around the facility on (03/21).

EPA continued air monitoring on March 21, 2019, from 4:00 am to 12:00 pm at 13 locations.

ITC's contractor continues air monitoring in the communities around the facility. As of 2:00 pm on 03/20, they have conducted 596 VOC readings, as well as 503 benzene readings in the communities. No readings above action levels have been recorded. ITC air monitoring within the site and in adjacent industrial facilities are detecting elevated levels of benzene.

ITC is currently working on a plan for managing the water in the secondary containment once the fire operations have ceased. The facility plans to pump the water to an empty tank and then dispose of it as waste. They will coordinate with TCEQ water and RCRA programs on this strategy.

EPA received the first preliminary water sample results from ITC in the afternoon of 03/20. Elevated concentrations for COD and oil/grease, as well as benzene, were detected, which was expected.

ASPECT continued flights on 03/20, with analysis showing detections of acetone and sulfur dioxide west of the facility and isobutylene and isoprene south of the facility. All concentrations were detected below 1 ppm.

ITC started removing product from one of the Pyrolosis Gas tanks (80-10) early on 03/21, which is being stored in an empty tank in another part of the facility (100-28).

At approximately 3:00 am on 03/21 elevated benzene levels forced the movement of the Incident Command from the tank farm area to Highway 225. As a precaution, the Love's convenience store, as well as the industrial facilities in the area, was asked to shelter-in-place.

Once EPA contractors detected levels in a residential area south of Highway 225, ITC recommended the City of Deer Park issue a community shelter-in-place and close Highway 225, which was performed at 4:50 am.

The TAGA mobile laboratory begin mobile monitoring in the areas between 8:00 – 8:30 am. TCEQ teams, CTEH, and the State of Texas Civil Support Team will also be conducting air monitoring throughout the community.